

**Africa RISING Ghana**

**Regional Research Team Meeting Report: Upper East Region**

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| Published by: | International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) |

August 2014

www.africa-rising.net

The Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government’s Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

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**1.0 Introduction**

The regional research meeting was held at the MOFA conference hall in Navrongo on the 14th August 2014. It was chaired by Dominic Sobreh, who leads the Upper East Africa RISING team. The meeting was attended by partners from Savanna Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), Animal Research Institute (ARI), Asian Vegetable Research Development Corporation (AVRDC), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA).

In the Upper East Region the project is been implemented in four (4) communities in the Kassena Nankana district (Bonia, Nyangua, Gia and Tekuru) and Bongo district (Samoligo).

Dominic mentioned that the workplan is made up of workpackages.

**2.0 Summary of presentations**

**2.1 WP2-Raising and sustaining productivity in cereal legume cropping systems in Northern Ghana**.

The following trials have been established: maize variety response to different fertilizer rates, effect of spraying on cowpea variety, soybean soil fertility , groundnut varieties response to different fertilizer rates , maize- sesame intercrop, response of nitrogen fertilizer and time of under sesame at different planting times, cereal legume strip cropping, cereal legume rotation, pigeon pea short duration and elite varietal trial, soil and water management trial, maize cowpea vegetable intercrop, integrated soil fertility management on millet, sorghum and maize (Zai), soybean and cowpea variety evaluation trial.

All inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and insecticides have been distributed to farmers in African RISING intervention communities as fellows; Up-scaling and baby trial with five hundred farmers (500) throughout all the five (5) intervention communities. Agricultural extension officers and community facilitators were trained on the 2014 experimental protocols.

The team intends to carry out the following activities in the coming months:

1. Weed control
2. Labeling of trials
3. Second fertilizer application
4. Data collection
5. Visiting of farmers fields
6. Spraying of insecticides

Hash weather condition, pest and disease problems, inadequate personnel, community animals’ herds men allowing their animals feed on our crops in the night and logistics were challenges cited.

**Evaluation of some okra, roselle and tomato varieties for adoption in Northern Ghana:** Francis Kusi from SARI is evaluating eight (8) varieties of okra, eight (8) varieties roselle and six (6) tomato varieties. Entomological, pathological and agronomic problems associated with the varieties are what the scientist is focusing his work on. Market analysis and postharvest studies will also be carried out on best selected varieties. NPK application,

insecticide spraying and weeding of the trial were carried out. He intends to start second weeding, apply sulphate of ammonia and start with data collection after labeling.

**Reducing postharvest losses in cowpea and maize through improved on-farm storage operation:** Issah Sugri of SARI is leading this trials which was established in 2013 in the Northern and Upper East regions with 300 farmers. H is currently collecting the last batch of data from this trial. He asked that a day is organized for site visiting before the trial comes to an end.

**2.2 WP4-Integrating vegetables into cereal legume cropping systems in Northern Ghana.**

This is an AVRDC-led work package implemented in the Upper East region by the team. Maize-pepper, Maize-roselle, Maize-okra and Maize-eggplant intercrop have been established in all our intervention communities.NPK have been applied and insect pest control has also been carried out. The team is about to complete weeding and apply sulphate of ammonia.

**2.3 WP6-Intensifying livestock and poultry production in Northern Ghana**

Mr. Edward Chanagia represented Dr. Franklin Avoryor of Animal Research Institute. He enumerated the various activities being carried out as:

* Supplementary feeding and routine vaccination are given to monitored household small ruminants in Bonia and Gia.
* A total of twenty farmers are involve, ten (10) in Gia and ten (10) in Bonia.
* Faecal matter is collected for analysis every month.

**2.4 WP7 -Raising and sustaining productivity in integrated crop- livestock systems.**

Due to the delayed rains, the major activity under this workpackage is being carried out by Abdul Rahman Nurudeen a PhD student at KNUST. He is comparing a combination of sheep corralling (0, 10 and 20 heads per acre) for manure and urine, nitrogen fertilizer rates (0, 30 and 90 kg N/ha) and three maize planting density on maize growth and grain yield, vegetation dynamics and soil physical and chemical characteristics. He is currently working in Samboligo, Gia and Nyangua and has ten (10) corralling trials set up.

**3. Summary**

Progress report on work packages 2, 4, 7 and 8 were presented.

Dominic Sobreh tasked Staff and partners of Africa RISING project present to make sure that, they are always on the field to ensure that implementation as well as data collection is properly handled in order to ensure that the project aim is achieved.

Compiled by

Dominic sobreh and Desire Dickson Naab

Table 1.List of participants

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| NAME | INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY | PHONE NUMBER |
| Edward Chanagia | MOFA | 0246862741 |
| Issah Sugri | CSIR-SARI | 0243850292 |
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